

Opening, Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes, Formal Public Comment, Committee Reports, Executive Director Update, Literacy Campaign and Secretary's Report.

Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m. The following members of the State Board were present: Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge L. Melendez, Vice President; Nina Lou Bunting; Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr., and Terry W. Whittaker. Secretary of Education Steven Godowsky was present to serve as the Executive Secretary for the State Board and the Board's Executive Director, Donna Johnson, was also present.

The agenda was approved as amended. A motion was made by Mrs. Bunting and seconded by Mr. Coverdale to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Mr. Melendez).

Secretary Godowsky commented on the incident that occurred at Howard High School earlier in the day and expressed heartfelt sympathy to the family and to the faculty and students at Howard High School. Dr. Gray asked for a moment of silence.

Minutes from the regular meeting of March 17, 2016 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bunting and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Mr. Melendez).

Public Comment

Two individuals requested to address the Board.

Kevin Ohlandt, a parent, spoke on school safety issues as well as school culture in the wake of the tragedy at Howard High School and also cited a personal example about school culture.

Mary Pickering from PACE spoke on the recommendations for DPAS II and changes to the education system. She noted that parents should have input in the evaluation of teachers and commented on the lack of the parent perspective on the committee. Ms. Pickering also stated that student learning should not take the back seat to accountability.

Committee Reports and Executive Director's Update

Board members highlighted their monthly activities. Mr. Coverdale attended the Financial Literacy Task Force meeting and the Board's retreat. Mrs. Bunting attended the DSBA Annual meeting, the DPAS II meeting, Scholars' dinner, the Board's retreat and participated at the NASBE Legislative Conference and met with staff members from both Senator Carper's and Senator Coon's office. Mrs. Bunting also participated in the Walk for Autism and commented that her grandson was the grand marshal. Dr. Gray was the speaker for the legislative day for Alpha Kappa Alpha. She attended a seminar where Dr. Steven Perry provided the keynote and she congratulated Melanie Mundell, a biotechnology teacher at Newark Charter, who was the recipient of the

Delaware Bio Educator of the Year award. Dr. Gray also attended the Scholars Dinner and commented on the 83 recipients.

Ms. Johnson highlighted some of the items and news briefs shared under the Executive Director's report. She highlighted articles on literacy and reading on grade level. She announced that the Board was hosting a workshop on ESSA on May 2nd.

Update on Literacy Campaign Efforts

Mary Ann Mieczkowski and Barbara Mazza provided an update on Special Education Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) with a focus on Early Literacy and special education. The plan addresses K-3 literacy and the literacy achievement of all students not just students with disabilities. The first two phases have provided excellent feedback. The strategic plan focuses on a multi-tier system with interventions. Through assessments teachers can drill down to the skill deficit in their students.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Godowsky commented on SAT day noting that there was a 91% participation rate on the first day. The Department is planning to meet on ESSA and how it correlates to the Department's mission and goals. Dr. Godowsky also commented on his visit to the Chesapeake Bay area for a meeting on environmental literacy and the SEED press conference. It was noted that the district teachers of the years visited Legislative Hall and Secretary Godowsky spoke about the Scholars' Dinner.

State Board Presentations

Educators as Catalysts Showcase of Innovation – Speech and Language Pathologists

The Board received a presentation on speech and language pathologists entitled "Can We Talk?" Presenters were Tracy Bombara, Jill Harman and Elizabeth Lucas. The presentation began by stating that communication starts at birth. Speech and language skills form the basis of communication, and are essential for academic success and learning. School-based Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) make significant contributions every day in the area of communication by helping provide students with a strong foundation on which to build lifelong learning. Reading, writing, gesturing, listening and speaking are all forms of communication. Research shows that 75% of preschoolers with early language impairment may develop significant reading problems. Reading development is based on a solid base of language skills beginning at the preschool level.

Dr. Gray thanked the presenters for the very informative presentation. The Board recessed from 2:33 p.m. to 2:44 p.m.

Department of Education

Statewide Talent Practices Report

Claire Robertson-Kraft and Joe Hejlek from Operation Public Education (OPE) presented the 2015 Delaware Talent Practices Report. OPE was commissioned by the Department of Education to gather information on talent practices across the state. All nineteen school districts and seventeen charter schools responded to the survey. Findings noted were that Senate Bill 16 has reduced the number of late hires in districts but charter schools still hire earlier. Recommendations included streamlining the process for more efficiency with a centralized system for receiving, processing, tracking and placing applicants. It was also noted that principals should have autonomy to determine a candidate's fit for their school but involve a team of school staff in the selection process. There was discussion on the financial risk for districts with hiring early and how some candidates may accept a position only to leave for a neighboring state before school starts. Shanna Ricketts and Christopher Ruszkowski joined OPE in presenting.

Action on Revisions to Social Studies Standards

Carolyn Lazar and Dusty Shockley presented the revisions to the Social Studies standards. The proposed updates clarify the content expectations and better reflect the level of understanding required in the field of social studies education. Examples of updated standards were highlighted and the revision process. In November 2015 the Department requested a partnership with the Social Studies Coalition of Delaware to investigate the need for an update to the Social Studies standards. A motion was made Mr. Coverdale to approve the adoption of the revised and updated Social Studies standards. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried by roll call vote (Yes: Mr. Coverdale, Mr. Melendez, Dr. Whittaker, Dr. Gray; No: Mrs. Bunting). Mrs. Bunting commented that her dissenting vote was due to the lack of detail where information is being taught. She cited the example of teaching students about the country's founding fathers. Secretary Godowsky stated he would convey her concerns to the Social Studies Coalition.

Update on Pathways Programs and New CTE Statewide Course of Study Program

Luke Rhine, Director of CTE Initiatives for the Department, presented a review of the Department's draft Strategic Plan for Career Pathways. The plan noted that by 2020 all school districts will offer career pathways in demand driven occupations and every student will receive career counseling. Partnering with the Department on various priority areas is Delaware Technical and Community College, the Department of Labor, the Delaware Workforce Development Board and United Way of Delaware. Public comment on the plan will continue through the end of May.

Mr. Rhine also announced that the following new career pathways will begin in the 2016-2017 school year: Academy of Finance will be offered in eight high schools; Allied Health will be offered in six high schools; and Cisco Networking Academy will be offered in four high schools. For the 2017-2018 school year, it is anticipated that the Teacher Academy and the Environment and Natural Resource Science pathway will be offered.

The Board recessed from 4:30 p.m. to 4:37 p.m.

Regulations

Tina Shockley presented the regulations on the agenda.

Revisions to Regulation 106A and 107A are being amended to clarify policy and procedures for credentialing and re-credentialing of those who utilize the statewide teacher evaluation system. The regulation is also being amended to reduce the number of surveys educators receive for the evaluation of the teacher appraisal system by setting the requirement to biennial instead of annual. A motion was made by Mrs. Bunting to approve the amended Regulation 106A. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez to approve the amended Regulation 107A. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote. The Orders were signed by the State Board.

Regulations 923, 924 through 926 focus on Children with Disabilities. These amendments were out for public comment for 60 days. Ms. Shockley noted the comments that were received. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the amended Regulation 923 Children with Disabilities Subpart B General Duties and Eligibility of Agencies. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the amended Regulation 924 Children with Disabilities Subpart C Local Educational Agency Eligibility. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the amended Regulation 926 Children with Disabilities Subpart E Procedural Safeguards for Parents and Children. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Charter Schools

Jen Nagourney and David Blowman presented the Charter School items.

Academia Antonio Alonso – Charter Modification - For Action

Academia Antonio Alonso has requested a charter modification to move from its current location to the former Odyssey site on Barley Mill Plaza. The Charter School Accountability Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the request. Secretary Godowsky stated that after review of the record he agreed and recommended that the State Board consent to his decision. A motion was made by Mrs. Bunting to consent to the major modification request. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Delaware STEM Academy – Formal Review – For Action

Delaware STEM has an approved enrollment of 250 9th and 10th graders. Charter schools are required to have 80% of its projected enrollment by April 1st. Delaware STEM had an enrollment of 72 students or 29% and as of today, there are 90 students enrolled or 36% of its enrollment. Secretary Godowsky has asked that the State Board assent to proceed with formal review for Delaware STEM Academy. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez to assent to the Secretary's request for formal review for Delaware STEM. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bunting and carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board received its monthly charter update. All Delaware Met students have enrolled into other schools except one. Ms. Nagourney offered congratulations to the chess team from Thomas Edison and congratulated Delaware Design Lab as one of 50 semifinalists for the XQ Super School Project Grant of \$10 million.

Professional Standards Board

Chris Kenton, Executive Director of the Professional Standards Board presented the PSB items to the State Board.

Regulation 1552 Elementary School Counselor was approved for publication. The motion was made by Mrs. Bunting and seconded by Dr. Whittaker. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Regulation 1545 Secondary School Counselor was approved for publication. The motion was made by Dr. Whittaker and seconded by Mr. Melendez. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Regulation 1559 Skilled and Technical Sciences Teacher was discussed. Approval of the amended regulation will be presented next month.

Regulation 1506 Emergency Certificate was presented for approval. Mr. Kenton stated that comments were received from the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens. A motion was made by Mr. Coverdale to approve the amended regulation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote. The Board signed the appropriate Order.

Adjournment

Ms. Johnson reminded all the State Board members of the ESSA workshop on May 2. Dr. Gray noted the personnel items for the Board's information. There being no further business, a motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Steven H. Godowsky, Executive Secretary and
Secretary of Education